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28-31 July 1991 Majles Sessions

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ABRAR Reports on 28 Jul Majles Session

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[Excerpt] The first session of the Majles after the summer recess, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, was held yesterday morning.

During this session, following oath-taking ceremonies for Asadollah Bayat and Rasul Montajab-Nia from the leadership committee, the deputies from Taft, Astara, and Khalkhal spoke about the government's economic policies, consumer trends, the out-of-control increase in prices, the rising waters of the Caspian Sea, and the destruction of communism in the Soviet Union.

A discussion on ways to create more facilities in the country's education system also took place during this session. Government organizations now have to build a number of schools for the education department each year. The full text of yesterday's open session reads as follows:

Agenda

Following the pre-agenda speeches and the reading of notices from deputies to executive officials, the legislative proposal to create more facilities to increase the educational units of the ministry of education was read out as the first item on the agenda of the Majles. Following comments by those for and against this proposal, the deputies accepted it. Also in this session, there was a discussion on corrections to the law on classifying jobs and organizing housing aid for workers, as well as the addition of a Single Article to the law on elections which was returned by the Council of Guardians. These were passed by the deputies.

In the proposal to add a Single Article to the law dealing with elections, all campaign restrictions mentioned in the law have been removed for candidates running for the Assembly of Experts. The other item on the agenda was the proposal, returned by the Council of Guardians, to fix the number of candidates running in elections. The correction suggested by the Council of Guardians was not approved by the deputies and the indicated proposal was sent to the Expediency Discernment Council for final review. In accordance with the correction suggested by the Council of Guardians, the elections for the Assembly of Experts should be exempt from the law requiring that the number of candidates be at least twice the number of seats.

The session continued with a discussion and approval of the draft proposal from the second round of deliberations on administrative and recruitment regulations for members and headquarters staff of the Groups of Seven in charge of land distribution and development. The last item on the agenda was the question posed by Gholam 'Ali Shahraki, the people's deputy from Zabol, on the reason for establishing the Zabol flour factory and the costs involved, which was addressed to Mr. Vahaji, the minister of commerce.

He criticized the actions of the Ministry of Commerce and the cereals' organizations with regard to the progress on this project and asked the minister of commerce to indicate a deadline for its completion.

He said it was possible to complete such a project in a period of six months and questioned the reason why it had not been completed since 1974. The minister of commerce replied to the question posed by the deputy from Zabol and gave a history of the plant which started in 1974 and noted the many problems that it has faced. He said: There have been eight heads of the cereals' organization since the start of this project, and this kind of change has disrupted progress in the plant.

He said another reason why the project cannot be completed quickly is its unsuitable location. He added that although the project is uneconomical, the government is determined to finish it.

According to this report, the deputy from Zabol did not consider the minister of commerce's reply convincing and the question was sent to the investigation committee.

Comments by the Deputy From Taft

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was 'Ali Reza Farzad, the people's deputy from Taft. He started by commenting on the Friday prayer sermons, which in the past several weeks have been delivered by the president, and the fact that these are being discussed in society. He said: In the past few days, the issues and the sermons read by the respected president Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani have been discussed widely in the press and especially among the people and families. For my part I thank Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his brave and honest approach.

He added: One must keep in mind that moderating the economy is not a goal, but rather one of the strategies of the five-year plan. Obviously our brave and great people will now step alongside our officials, just as they did during the crucial moments of the revolution. The basic issue that the people must know is that we are a developing country in all aspects and that of course we must make an effort to reach the same level as the rich powerful Western nations. But the truth of the matter is that among the developing nations, many of those nations are also far ahead of us. China is a Third World nation, with all that large population. The basic economic situation in that country, which has a population of 1.2 billion, is far better than ours. The consumer trends of their people are quite clear and the production trend is also set out. For example, keeping in mind that the most important transport in that country is the bicycle, this product enjoys the highest rate of production. They do not fundamentally agree with various types of Mercedes Benz and Toyota cars. The total land covered by a typical family is under 25 meters. The total length of cloth given to each person each year is stipulated, the eating habits of families are quite clear. He continued: Among the ranks of developing nations we

have India, whose economic basis in terms of their steel and energy is ahead of us. But they too have a clear consumption pattern. In that country you will not find all kinds of goods from all over the world. The consumer trends of that country are such that about 20 percent of the population are born along the side of the streets. That is where they live and that is also where they die. We eventually have to accept that we are a developing country and that among the developing nations, we have carved out a place for ourselves. Some of the economic habits among us, both in terms of production and in terms of consumption, are like those of developed and wealthy countries. An example of our behavior and our trends in comparison with the economic power in the country would be like that of a family whose children have the spending habits of wealthy children despite the bad financial situation of the head of the household. This sort of behavior is treason to the family.

Unfortunately, I must say that the eight-year-old war was also not constructive for our country's economy. This is because the war was confined to the battlefront. It did not stretch to the homes of the wealthy, to the shops of merchants, to the wheels of factories, to the bank accounts of the rich, into the homes and into the streets. It is obvious that a war can only make the post-war economy grow if it involves all the organs of a nation. Today the economic behavior among the various ranks of people is not of a people that has come out of a war. One cannot make an effort to reconstruct the country with this sort of behavior. Alongside the discussion to moderate the economy, there are other serious issues within the five-year program which are very important. Unfortunately, some of our brothers in the government and in other places do not believe in this. One of the issues is consumer trends. The matter of production trends also becomes clear in the discussion on consumer trends. In the past two years, not only has there not been an effort to correct consumer attitudes, but more damaging actions and examples have taken shape. Giving permission to one person to import 200,000 color television sets, importing all sorts of items which involve new types of behavior patterns, bringing in all kinds of cars and the fact that our people are seeking the latest models of everything on the world market—this is not the proper behavior of a developing country with this sort of economic power. The government must take serious steps to correct society's consumption patterns and production trends. There must be clear directions in all areas. For my own part, I praise the government's ideal pattern of 75 meters of land for each family. How good it would be to have a heavy tax on property exceeding this limit. This is nothing new. Those who live in countries with greater economic power choose the most appropriate behavior. For example, Japan has an average of 48 to 50 meters of land [per family].

In another part of his speech, the deputy from Taft talked about correcting the basis and foundation of government offices and organizations and lowering their running costs. He said: It is right that the water, electricity, and telephone companies should be self-sufficient, that people should pay the costs. But it was also that the outrageous running costs of these organizations, which at present come to 1,100 billion rials, should be lowered. Despite this, not one step was taken and the services of these companies have become much more expensive. At this time I will not talk about some of the salaries, the waste, the parties, the foreign trips, and the spending for services to some government organizations. The government must pay serious attention to such issues keeping in mind the policies of the five-year plan.

In another part of his speech the speaker added: Another issue is that of calculated supervision and control by the government, which is in the plans but is not being carried out. Not only that, quite the opposite is true. Continuous directives issued by the government with regard to its policy of not wanting to put prices on items or control prices are in no way in line with the policies of the five-year plan. The understanding of some people was that in this program, we will go from a closed economy to an open economy. That is not the case at all. In the five-year plan we will go from a closed economy to a moderated economy. Under conditions when the real price of foreign currency is between 1,350 and 1,400 rials, keeping in mind the amount of cash flow we have, lack of government control and supervision and promoting competitive currency at 600 rials for production units, there can be no result but adding the difference between 600 to 1,350 rials to the pockets of factory-owners and middle-men. Our belief is that the government must control, and supervise, and price goods in most sectors until such time as we have a moderated economy. The clear example of this is the increase in the price of diesel fuel which caused an increase in the price of transport in the country that is not in proportion to the first increase. The reason for that was the lack of government supervision and control.

In the concluding segment of his speech, the speaker talked about social justice and said: Social justice is the most necessary tool in order to bear the hardship and difficulties during the country's period of reconstruction. It is also one of the basic promises of the Islamic regime and one of its prominent principles. He asked officials to follow that path.

Farzad, the deputy from Taft, then commented on a speech given by the president during one of his Friday prayer sermons regarding the people's problems and criticisms. He added: For him to think that the people's problems are only mentioned in order to gain votes, and the fact that he was addressing only one group—we consider it to be below his dignity to discuss elections at this early stage, just to crush one faction, which in turn is taken to mean support for another faction. We consider the leader of the revolution and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani himself to belong to all the regime and all the revolution and both political factions in the country.

He talked about the efforts for future election and said: There are efforts being made for future elections which are very worrying. These include the supervision of the Council of Guardians over Majles elections, which is being analyzed and considered as interference. Regarding this sort of activity, I sound the alarm. Without any doubt, this sort of activity will be prevented with the presence of the great leader.

He concluded by thanking the people for holding mourning ceremonies in his province.

Speech by the Deputy From Astara

The second pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Mohammad Faraz-pur, the elected deputy of the people of Astara. Using the three minutes left over by the deputy from Khalkhal, he said: These days the issue of the rising waters of the Caspian Sea have taken up much of the news headlines. Political and scientific persons, Caspian Sea experts, geologists, geographers and environmentalists, Iranians, and Russians and Azaris have all given their views in this regard and have counted the reasons why the waters of the Caspian Sea are rising. We are not in a position to accept or deny their claims. Each of these view could itself be a subject for analysis. But what is certain is that in recent years we have ourselves seen that the Caspian Sea is rising and this has endangered many villages, establishments and towns. The first town that was threatened by the waves of the sea was the beautiful city of Astara. This goes back to 1980 and 1981. At that time, as deputy for the town of Astara, I warned the officials to start building a wall along the shores. Even though this was not a very sophisticated step, it could have saved an important part of the town from being evacuated and destroyed in recent years. Unfortunately, with relative calm in the sea, the work did not progress quickly and it even stopped from time to time. In the past one or two months the sea has become turbulent again and more threatening waves have crashed into the unprotected shores of Astara.

Water entered into a section of town that did not have a protective wall and most of the people's homes went under water. Foundations were damaged, the sewers broke, and there was no road to the shoreline because of the flow of water. The people's health and their environment were placed in danger. With the people's effort and limited help from the Ministry of Interior, as well as the office of the governor general of Gilan Province, with the little facilities that the municipality had at its disposal, it managed to lessen the effect of the damage. But this was not and is not the solution.

In conclusion, he talked about the bad financial situation of those living along the seashore and asked the officials of concerned ministries, including those from the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Interior, to take serious steps to build walls along the shore.

Speech by the Deputy From Khalkhal

The third pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Seyyed Motahar Kazemi, the deputy for Khalkhal who said in his speech: Today, thank God, the principles of Marxism have been buried forever with their own hands. It is hoped that the people of the Soviet Union will choose in its place the fate-determining principles of Islam.

The Wahhabis were not able to make anything of the poisonous propaganda backed by the United States and Israel against the ideology of martyrdom. During the 10 days of Ashura [the period of mourning for Imam Hoseyn, the grandson of Prophet Mohammad] this year, in order to put out the flames of martyrdom which burns the roots of Wahhabism, they resorted to placing bombs and shooting the mourners of Imam Hoseyn in India and Pakistan, and to the destruction of Shi'a graves. This only contributed to an increased presence of mourners, which belittled them [the Wahabbis].

He then added: The United States is today bringing about two issues which are very tricky, in order to gain control over a vast area of the world. One is the new situation in the world and with this excuse, it wants to gain the reins of power lost to the awareness of masses, especially in Islamic societies. In addition to this, it is trying to destroy or belittle any move toward Islam which has its roots in the pure Islam of the Prophet. The other issue is that of disarmament. The United States and its allies are themselves producers of arms, and they arm Israel themselves and they strengthen that country every day. But in Islamic countries they commit any crime they want with this excuse. The Muslim and awakened peoples of the world must know that most of the chaos and spread of deadly weapons is caused by the United States which takes advantage in this manner.

In another part of his speech, he spoke about the success achieved by the Iranian pilgrims to Mecca in all areas, especially in holding the ceremonies against heretics. He thanked the representative of the great leader in this regard.

He added: I thank the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which has taken major steps to solve the basic problems in the country, has achieved victories in the political arena and also in stabilizing the country. But I wish to make a few points. The most important step by the government after the passage of thirteen years from the victory of glorious Islamic revolution, is the establishment of a system in the country so that the nation, instead of being dependent on individuals, is dependent on a strong system. That way everything would fall into its own place. The method whereby a person with strong connections, who is able to carry out things in a town or a province, is most certainly worrying for the future of the country. In deprived areas such as Khalkhal, which before the revolution was removed from the wealthy areas of the country, an all-out movement is necessary. Of course, one has to accept that in deprived areas such

as Khalkhal, there has been a lack of experience and a lack of facilities and funds. Golden opportunities were missed because of local differences and this brought about a wider difference from other areas. Today, if one wants to take serious steps and remove the worry in the minds of the people of Khalkhal, the points mentioned below need special attention. The important roads in Khalkhal on which industry, health, medicine, culture, agriculture, and cattle raising depend, have to be built soon. This would also impact [reduce] the number of migrants. Some respected officials do not pay attention to Khalkhal's geographic position, which is on the borders of three provinces of Eastern Azarbaijan, Gilan and Zanjan—this demands quite a few major roads.

The speaker added: It is necessary that the government provide the necessary foreign exchange for industry in Khalkhal. The attraction of foreign exchange at the official rate could bring into fruition important and fate-determining industries in Khalkhal and elsewhere. I ask the government to provide foreign exchange at the official rate for the industries which are being developed in Khalkhal.

He added: There is no control on the increase of prices, and the price index differs in various parts of the country, which has caused problems in deprived areas. I ask the respected president to place the price index in Khalkhal at a level so as to be attractive. That way, the executors will carry out the projects with enthusiasm. [passage omitted on condolences]

RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

*30 Jul

91AS1346A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Jul 91 p 5

[Excerpts]

Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legislative and Parliamentary Division. An open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

Following the statements of the representatives of Na'in, Khodabandeh and Qidar and Birjand, the Majles went into session.

A report on yesterday's open session of the Majles follows:

Nabiollah Raji, the Representative of Na'in

Islam can by no means tolerate insults to its sacred beliefs in the name of freedom and differences of opinion.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Nabiollah Raji from Na'in.

Concerning the issue of peace in the Middle East, which has been called the second Camp David, he said: The United States, relying on the fluid climate it has created with its invasion of Iraq and having frightened the governments in the region, has dragged all the Arab governments in the region into reaching a compromise with Israel and, through these governments' granting official recognition to Israel, hopes that the Palestine issue will be forgotten forever.

Israel and the United States are advancing from such a position of power that they are not prepared to even reach a compromise with Palestinian organizations, such as the SAF [expansion not given], because they bear the name of Palestine. The success of this plan means (inflicting) another horrible blow, after the first Camp David [accord], against the goal of Palestine and the emancipation of Jerusalem from the claws of Zionism.

The totality of these events brings us to the conclusion that the only diplomacy that can completely succeed is one that relies on the nations and million-large masses of Muslims, and that any other solution can ultimately be dishonorable.

In continuation, he referred to the issue of disarmament and said: The basic question is whether or not the superpowers headed by the United States will all agree to this issue. Does the United States not intend to force other countries that they find in their way to disarm in order to be the sole power in the area of world politics?

If the global disarmament plan is discussed sincerely, why does the United States simultaneously engage in huge military transactions with its puppet governments, such as Israel, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia?

While decisively endorsing and supporting the economic policies of the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and agreeing that these policies on the whole will be in the interests of the country and the people and that their effects will be made very clear in the long term, I find it necessary to point out that the government must not completely remove its control of prices. In many instances, it is necessary for the government to harness irrational and uncontrollable high prices through proper intervention.

It is sometimes seen that in spite of the abundance and domestic production of an item, it reaches the people at a very high price. There is no reason for this except the economic wheeling and dealing of the money-hungry capitalists, hoarders, and middlemen. Why should the government not deal seriously and decisively in such cases? It is obvious that the leech-like capitalists will never give up their unrestricted profiteering unless they feel fear and insecurity. If this godless stratum feels secure enough to hoard and raise prices and not to produce, the economic pressures on the people can increase daily and the trend of high prices would accelerate.

The second issue is the cultural and artistic problem. It is evident that the intellectual stagnation and backwardness are not the basis for the countries' cultural and

artistic policies. Islam is sufficiently flexible and has attended to the needs of the people and the society. But on the other hand, these policies must never fall victim to cultural liberalism and ideas that support an open society and opinions which are in opposition to God's restriction. He emphasized: The cultural ideas and tastes of the Imam are the best standard for the officials of the country. On the one hand, the Imam confronted the backward people and those who were unable to understand the temporal and spatial requirements and conditions and blocked the way to narrowmindedness and stagnation. On the other hand, he warned frequently about the Westernized intellectuals and immoral writers. The most distinct example of this issue was his brave reaction to the book SATANIC VERSES. This reaction of the Imam indicated the principle that Islam can by no means tolerate insults to its sacred beliefs in the name of freedom and differences of opinion, and the more artistic such an insult may be the more severe the punishment will be.

At the dawn of Islam, too, we saw such an issue. The Prophet, after the conquest of Mecca, granted amnesty to everyone, even Abu Sofyan, but gave instructions that all those who had insulted Islam and its sacred beliefs in poetic language be punished for their actions. This means that the danger from deviant artists is more damaging to the society than deviant politicians.

He added: Today, most unfortunately, we are witnessing the increasing activity of deviant writers and artists who are antipeople and affiliated with foreign circles. In the various magazines that have been published mostly in the past year or two we have witnessed this activity. In these magazines there are sometimes explicit and bold insults to all Islamic sacred beliefs, the revolution and the people. But, unfortunately, we do not hear the slightest reaction to such cases. If we visit a book store, we see dozens of books whose repeated topic is to spread debauchery, sexual corruption, immorality and insults to the religion and national beliefs. And all of them receive government paper to be published. In the cinema, too, we are facing the same phenomenon, more or less. In some films, in the name of love, corruption, prostitution, and illegitimate relations are advertised. Of course, this does not mean to suggest that we are ignoring the untainted services of the artists who are committed and interested in the people and the country or the hard work of the cultural officials of the country. But I find it my duty to warn against the deficiencies and deviations that exist and ask for a review and rectification of them.

Underestimating the cultural war of the enemy, with explanations that seem on the surface to be in our interests but actually bring on corruption, frightened by the atmosphere created by immoral intellectuals and giving this group uncontrolled freedom are not in the interests of anyone.

In conclusion, he made some reminders to the executive officials in connection with his constituency.

Morovvatollah Partow, the Representative of Khodabandeh and Qidar

Morovvatollah Partow, from Khodabandeh and Qidar, was the second speaker. He said: I only mention the problems of Qidar because, most unfortunately, some of the honorable officials have so far not paid attention to our reminders or have paid little attention to them.

O God, be witness to my anxiety which stems from the anxiety of a number of your best servants in a corner of this land, an from the oppressed who are among the followers of your revered prophet, who have been on every stage and have obeyed the orders of our leader and imam and are today obeying the instructions of our beloved leader.

He added: These people are poor in all dimensions. They were harmed by the khans, by the gendarmes, and by the shah. And today, they are being blatantly sacrificed. Some person or persons are playing a role while these people are being sacrificed, whereas the fathers of these persons were singing the praises of the tables of the khans and the cohorts of kings. Today, as the times require, they have changed their tune and are shouting the slogans of Islam and the oppressed people.

If the oppressed people of Qidar who are condemned to continue their traditional farming are victims of earthquakes, have no shelter and are mistreated by some power, they will have no refuge. If they are mistreated by some element or elements in the executive branch, they have no one to hear them out and solve their problem.

O God, You are the only just judge. When someone is cut off from everywhere, he will turn to You, in truth a judge who in the past centuries has overthrown such tribes as those of Lut and Samud, and deservedly so. Do the same to those dishonorable individuals and opportunists who neither worship You nor are loyal to this government nor a friend of the nation, as You did to their ancestors.

Oh God, I do not know whether the related honorable officials of the regime have the time to listen to our words, which are indeed the words of the oppressed people of a corner of this country, or if they do not, God willing, they will improve.

Am I, as the saying goes, digging my own grave with these words, and will I, as before, be accused and prosecuted?

In Qidar, the investigation agent attacks the farmers who engage in harvesting under some pretext and creates a disturbance, and by fining the farmers on motorcycles, makes them skeptical about the regime in order to inculcate in the people that all this is because "Partow" is the Majles representative.

Honorable officials of the regime, honorable executive officials, for the villager to stay in the village requires that he possess the most basic resources. If he has a

school but no teacher, if he has a tractor but cannot find spare parts, the villager cannot decide whether to stay or leave.

O officials of the center, O you who are aware, in the name of God, attend to the problems of these oppressed people. Do not allow these poor people to leave home, because that will cause problems for the regime as well. There is neither room left in the cities to live nor room to breathe. The society will become even more disorderly and things will fall apart.

Nothing has remained of villages but ruins and residence for owls. How do the farmers fare...and their agricultural products? Why is no attention paid to the complaints of farmers regarding the executive officials in the region?

He also said: The farmer can only hear "we have nothing and there is not any," no matter where he goes for his needs. This is the situation with the officials, and when they protest, there is violence.

Seyyed Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, the Representative of Birjand and Nohbandan

The last pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, the representative of Birjand and Nohbandan, who spoke about the Council of Guardians' interpretation concerning the issue of supervision over the elections and said: In response to the letter of Ayatollah Rezvani, the honorable president of the central supervisory committee of the Council of Guardians, the honorable Council of Guardians announced that "the supervision cited in Article 99 of the Constitution is approbatory and includes all the stages to be implemented in the elections, including the verification and rejection of the candidates."

Based on the definition of the meaning of supervision, in both the Mo'in and Dehkhoda dictionaries, "approbatory" supervision is defined as follows: Overseeing, by the supervisor, the actions of the administrator and approving his action before it is carried out, so that the administrator, before taking any action, consult with the supervisor about the action, and if he agrees, he acts accordingly; the administrator must not take any action without the approval of the supervisor.

According to Article 175 of the Constitution, a council composed of the representatives of the president, the judicial branch, and the Majles will supervise the Voice and Vision. Based on the same rationale, the council supervising the Voice and Vision is also "approbatory." Therefore, the Voice and Vision must implement any program with the approval of the supervisory council and cannot carry out any action without prior approval of the supervisory council. For this reason, supervision of the judicial branch as stated in Paragraph 3 of Article 156 of the Constitution and supervision over the proper implementation of all the laws must be "approbatory," and all circular letters and executive instructions must have the prior approval of the judicial branch followed by their implementation in the offices and ministries. No law can be implemented without the prior approval of the judicial branch in offices and organizations. Then what about supervision in Article 184 of the Constitution, which involves the limitations of the supervision of the judicial branch in regards to proper implementation of affairs and national inspection office?

What about the situation with regard to the supervision of the president over the work of the ministers? In other words, the ministers must carry out all their duties with the approval of the president. What about the supervision cited in Article 101 of the supreme council of provinces?

He added: If the honorable Council of Guardians must give its opinion in regards to approving or rejecting the competence of the candidates, then why, in accordance with Article 93, is the Majles not legally valid without the existence of the Council of Guardians when the credentials of the representatives are being approved? If the Council has the right to be involved in the implementation process, why is it not present in the most important phase? When the supporters and opponents of the credentials present their final statements, why is the Majles legal without the presence of the Council of Guardians? According to the recent rationale of the Council of Guardians, it should have been stated in Article 93 that during the objection, opposing and supporting discussions and defenses of the representatives, the opinion of the Council of Guardians in approving or rejecting the credentials is necessary, or that it would be sufficient. Why is there no mention of the Council of Guardians in the phase of the approval of the credentials and the Majles even legal without their presence?

Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh addressed the members of the Council of Guardians and said: You are the pride of the legislative branch and are above the Majles. If the supervision of the Council of Guardians as stated in Article 99 of the Constitution is "approbatory," the supervision of the Majles and the representatives who are in the legislative branch is "approbatory" in all cases. The 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] national budget law has been fully approved by all of you. On that basis and on your own approval of the issue on supervision, from now on all decisions, programs, and ratifications of the Economic Council must be previously approved by two representatives of the Majles who oversee the Economic Council. Based on Paragraph "E" of Note 2 of the 1370 [1991-92] national budget law, following you honorable members of the Council of Guardians, I say to the Iranian people that from now on any sort of ratification by the Economic Council prior to the approval of two supervisors of the Majles (legislative branch) is illegal, and to announce it or implement it would be a violation of law.

Following the honorable Council of Guardians, I announce from this official microphone that from now on, based on the interpretation of supervision, the decisions of the planning committees of the provinces, in accordance with the law, must be approved by the

representatives of the people of that province prior to implementation, for they have legal supervision in the planning committee.

The speaker also said: According to Paragraph "D" of Note 9 of the 1370 [1991-92] national budget law, all the purchases of major defense items must be approved by two representatives (of the defense and plan and budget committees) and the supervisory committee stated in Paragraph "E" of Note 9. If the supervision of the honorable Council of Guardians over the work of the legislature requires "approbation," the supervision of the Majles and the representatives also requires "approbation." You cannot have two sets of standards. In other words, all existing actions must be under supervision, and that decision is not specific to rejection or approval, even in cases when "rejection or approval" is meaningless and also when the supervisor is competent to intervene. Therefore, the supervision of the representative is also the same.

Stating that no action is legal without the opinion of the Majles, the representative of Birjand said: From now on, any decision by the committee on the allocation of foreign currency cited in Paragraph 2, Note 29, of the 1370 [1991-92] national budget law must be approved by two representatives of the Majles who legally oversee the committee on the allocation of foreign currency prior its announcement and implementation. Then, addressing the Council of Guardians, he said: Do the gentlemen not note that by such interpretation, the affairs of the country and the government will face problems and come to a halt?

If someone like me had given an opinion, tomorrow 300 opponents would march onthe streets and shout that "the opponent of the Ministry of Interior is the opponent of the government," "the opponent of Hashemi is the opponent of the leader," and "the opponent of the leader is the enemy of the Prophet."

Although with this interpretation, the Majles and the legislature gain absolute control over all the branches, the country and the government will face many problems. Again, following the opinion of the honorable Council of Guardians, all the activities of the purchasing council must be approved by two representatives prior to announcement and implementation. I am honored that I was elected by the Majles along with another honorable colleague to supervise the committee on the allocation of foreign currency. Here, respectfully and officially, I announce to the vice president, the honorable director of the Plan and Budget Organization and the chairman and other members of the committee that, based on this ratification, any decision must be approved by me and my honorable colleague, because supervision over the committee on the allocation of funds is conferred by the Majles. This opinion requires "approbation" and is the opinion of the Council of Guardians.

If from the orchard of the peasant the king eats an apple/
His servants will pull up the tree from the root. This interpretation is published in the official newspaper dated 25/03/70 [15 June 1991], and after 40 days, RESALAT newspaper, at the reopening of the Majles, three days before the Majles begins its work again, prints it with a headline in very bold letters on the first page most eloquently. God only knows what objective RESALAT has in doing so. I ask the revered leader and the president to question such actions of RESALAT and those who support it. The Majles obeys the revered leader and supports the government and has responded positively to most of the requests of the government.

Referring to the statements of the grand leader in meeting with the business and bazaar merchants, the speaker said: The revered leader spoke in mid-Tir [July] this year to a group of business people and made a speech which was very sensitive and important. The mass media, especially the Voice and Vision and the newspapers, must have reported this ery sensitive and important issue extensively. The grand leader said: "The Islamic societies of the bazaar must identify the profiteers and deceptive money accumulators."

But they did little of that. I must say that if this order of the leader is implemented, it will be a great help for the government, and the prices will be reformed.

The leader said: "Some of the merchants gained huge wealth during the war and added to the pressures caused by the embargo." Following the leader, I must say that it is time for everyone to help the government and for the government to make every effort along with the judicial branch to identify these economically violating businessmen of the war time as economic terrorists, a term used by Mr. Hashemi before, to subject them to the necessary punishment and to give the accumulated wealth in accordance with the rulings of the court to the oppressed who suffer under the pressure of high prices.

The revered leader said: "The businesses must not be dragged into group and political conflicts." But many of them have been dragged into conflicts. Again, he said: "Misuse and false propaganda and creating disunity between the people and the officials are considered a crime." Elsewhere, he said: "The businesses must serve and obey the Islamic laws. In the Islamic society, income tax is obligatory and sanctioned by religious law." The leader said: "The Islamic societies must act consciously and expose those who use deception to evade taxes, to cheat and violate the law." Here I must say that the government and the judicial branch must deal decisively with any society, union or guild organization that does not obey these instructions of the leader.

In another part of his speech, Ha'erizadeh considered the increasing prices, the medical costs and the high price of housing serious dangers for the regime and pointed out in this connection: All strata of the society, especially the Islamic societies of the businesses and the unions, the officials of the medical board, the engineering unions and the production and services union, have a divine

and conscientious duty to give serious help to the government at this sensitive juncture and under such crushing pressures. The government will not be able to fight alone. If prices are not controlled, the tax pressures will be directly transferred to the people, as they have been. The price of meat, legumes, transportation, necessities, various fruits, housing and rent are all crushing for families with less than 10,000 tomans in income. They are even heavy for families with 150,000-toman incomes and crushing for villagers.

In conclusion he added: I must swear and testify that, as God is my witness, is my witness, in the name of God and the Prophet of God, I, Seyyed Abolhasan Ha'erizadeh, son of Seyyed Kazem, am a Twelver Shi'ite Muslim, a believer in Islam, the Constitution and the sacred regime of the Islamic Republic; I have not been and am not, as RESALAT states, an opponent of the defense budget. In the 1370 [1991-92] budget discussion, I had asked for an explanation about the increase as compared to the five-year plan, and the opponents slandered me and distributed underground handouts about me. I have not been and am not a "follower of Bani Sadr." The discussions in the first Majles are evidence. The evidence is the session on 20 Esfand 1359 [11 March 1981], in which I spoke with reverence and sincerity about Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Martyr Raja'i. The book and documents published by the Justice Department known as the 14 Esfand [5 March] incident are evidence that I did not support Bani Sadr. My vote was against him (page 18 of the minutes of the Majles discussions), and my vote for the government of Martyr Raja'i was positive (page 4 of the related discussions).

RESALAT writes and the opponents distribute underground handouts, but it is all slander. It altered my statements and omitted a part of them. These distortions are made into underground handouts by the opponents, RESALAT publishes them, andthe government cannot find them. It is unbelievable. What RESALAT writes is slander. I have no company anywhere in the world, let alone in the north or in Mazandaran. RESALAT makes another accusation, which I denounce: I have not had any connection openly or secretly with any British company. On the contrary, I seriously want to find the roots of Freemasonry in Iran and have not taken any trip abroad paid by any British company. If I have, let them publish the evidence and set aside such muckraking. RESALAT writes an article called "From Abolhasan to Abolhasan" and besmirches my name without any evidence from the Justice Department book on the Majles discussions as proof that I have supported Bani Sadr. I am truly obedient to the leader and a supporter of the government programs. But I have objections to the program, and in accordance with my duty as a representative of the Majles, I always consider it my duty, my legal duty, to speak in opposition or support. [passage omitted on Majles ratification]

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[Excerpts]

Report on Yesterday's Open Session of the Majles

Legislative and Parliamentary Division—The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning, chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. Following comments from Dr. Najaf-qoli Habibi, the Majles went into session.

Below is a report on yesterday's open session filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent.

Najaf-qoli Habibi, deputy from Tehran: In the discussion on criticism, words such as "fooling the people," "tricks in order to gain votes," and others, are dangerous for national unity.

The only pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open session of the Majles was Najaf-qoli Habibi, deputy for the people of Tehran, who started his speech by making comments on the plot by world aggression to arrange a "new world order." He said: disarmament of regional countries and the Persian Gulf war, as well as efforts to establish their troops in the region, including inside Turkey, are all being talked about these days. All these are clear examples of the movement launched by the aggressors in the world to arrange a "new world order," in terms of military strategy. The same goes for their efforts to solve the issue of Palestine by means of a Middle East conference. For this, they have rallied all the reactionaries and have received their cooperation, which is an example in political terms of the "new world order" of the world aggressors. Imposing a market economy on most countries in the world—which is being done by international bodies such as the World Bank and the IMF—is an example of the "new world order" in the economic sense. It is obvious that if the world aggressors, headed by the United States, succeed in establishing this new world order—which is nothing but an expansion and establishment of their control—poverty, chaos, and slavery will put pressure on the oppressed peoples of the world even more than before.

He added: For our people, regime, and revolution, it seems that there are only two paths open in this situation:

1. To accept the new world order of the world aggressors, which means making an effort to strengthen our ties to the West and the United States. It would also mean accepting regional disarmament in the way that the world aggressors, headed by the United States, want, and with regard to the Palestine and the destruction of Israel. In economics, we would have to accept a market economy, with all that that entails, which will cause the destruction of all the oppressed peoples and various other people in society. Also, we would no longer talk about the war between poverty and wealth, the great

distance between rich and poor, social justice, and other such issues. It is obvious that accepting this path—meaning the new world order, which seriously threatens our independence—contradicts all the ideals of the Islamic revolution.

2. To resist this plot of the new world order, with all its fancy words. It seems that, with our belief in the Islamic revolution and its values, we have no choice but to resist. In order to achieve our goals we must pay attention to the following matters, seriously and without wasting any time.

1. On the international scene and in foreign policy, we must cooperate actively with all countries ready to cooperate with us in terms of living an independent life. We must secure their agreement and prepare the groundwork to thwart the aggressors' plot to establish the new world order. Unfortunately we do not see much effort in our country's foreign policy.

For example, even in the question of Palestine, with all the importance that it has for our Islamic revolution, we cannot see much effort. We hope that our foreign policy bodies become active in a manner worthy of the Islamic Republic. They can be certain that toing and froing between centers of the aggressors' power, such as Paris, will not solve any of our problems.

2. In terms of internal policy we must also undertake some actions:

a. Safeguarding national unity. In this regard we must secure the serious cooperation of all groups and political movements and the government. This needs a continued and extraordinary effort to strengthen democracy, based on Islamic values. These include mutual respect between all factions, a guarantee of active participation for all levels of society in political affairs and avoiding any action or excuse that would result in an unhealthy confrontation between factions, which would ultimately result in people's becoming disillusioned with their involvement in political affairs. To achieve this goal, we must encourage various formations and groups and pay serious attention to the law dealing with party political activity.

He added: There is also talk of "criticism" in society these days. Strange things are being said in this regard. "Insults" and "accusations" and words such as "fooling the public," "tricks in order to gain votes," "meanness," and so forth are dangers for our national unity and prevent us from reaching the lofty goals of the Islamic revolution.

b. Efforts must be made to solve internal economic problems using local means, relying on local capital and investment and local manpower, keeping in mind our cultural and economic make-up, avoiding norms dictated by experts sent by international organizations and aggressive countries. In this field what they recommend is a free-market economy, which will undoubtedly destroy the oppressed people of the world and is in their own interests.

The speaker added: On the one hand, we must pay attention to the universities and there must be an effort to raise the standard of science and research in the country. The results of such actions could be used in the executive machinery. On the other hand we must also pay attention to guilds, technical and production groups, and organizations, which will guarantee production growth and the utilization in the workforce of revolutionary forces that are dedicated and experienced. We must pay attention to the danger of removing revolutionary forces. You yourselves have seen recently in some organizations—despite the fact that they have forces dedicated to the revolution and Hezbollah forces who have gained experience in the 10 to 12 years since the revolution—what sorts of dangers present themselves when these people are removed. [passage omitted on how the Safavid Dynasty fell after religious influence was eliminated]

The deputy from Tehran talked next about "a tendency to want a glamorous life," "tendency toward consumer waste," "lack of responsibility in issues," and "neglecting to standards." he said: Sometimes we hear that someone in an organization has done something wrong. Then we see that, instead of being removed, this person is given a higher post, or better facilities are provided for him. It is true that these cases are rare occurrences in the country, but our regime must examine issues closely to prevent their recurrence. In the government, in the judiciary, in the Majles, or wherever people are involved with this issue, they must look into such cases with care and sensitivity.

In connection with "moral corruption" the speaker said:

The issue of "moral corruption" is undoubtedly and clearly a serious threat to our country with, its lofty Islamic goals. We have no doubt that the world's aggressors have a hand in its promotion. Our organizations must take steps and choose methods that are effective in crushing these deviant movements.

In conclusion he added: the government organizations must fight the high prices that are being imposed on people so that they do not lose their support. Also, if attention is not paid to the waste that exists within the organizations themselves, and if time is wasted, it will be too late.

Bills Passed

The report filed by RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent indicates that the first item on the agenda of the Majles was the bill to "agree that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran join an international agreement on preferred trade between developing countries." In accordance with the vote taken by the deputies, discussion of this matter will be postponed by a month.

A report on the first round of discussion by the commission for agriculture and village welfare on "merging government-owned companies that operate in the field of poultry," was the second item on the Majles' agenda, which was approved and passed.

The third item on the agenda was "the bill for the formation of a national committee to alleviate the effects of natural disasters." Its single article and six notes were passed as follows:

Single Article: In accordance with this law there will be a "national committee to alleviate the effects of natural disasters" for the purpose of exchanging information, research and science aimed at finding practical and logical ways to prevent and alleviate the effects of natural disasters. These would include storms, floods, drought, excessive cold, pests, pollution, earthquakes, movement of soil, movement of seas, lakes, rivers, and so forth. The committee will be headed by the minister of interior. Appropriate ministers and those responsible in various organizations will also take part. In the absence of ministers, their deputies will participate. Other members will include the meteorological organization, the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education, Ministry of Reconstruction Crusade, Ministry of Roads and Transport, the Plan and Budget organization, the Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Geophysics Institute, the Red Crescent Society, the forestry and pastures organization, the Ministry of Commerce, and any other ministry or organization, revolutionary organ, security, or military forces that the head of the committee deems necessary.

Note 1—The national committee to alleviate the effects of natural disasters will form subcommittees in order to conduct research and in-depth studies on the country's natural disasters, their history, prior information, and also to announce emergency situations and ways and means to counter the effects.

Note 2—The plan and budget organization has a duty to provide the funds needed by this committee, not previously budgeted for by the appropriate organization. The funds will be approved within plans that have already been passed by the appropriate organization.

Note 3—the minister of the interior will give an order for the formation of provincial committees to alleviate the effects of natural disasters, to be headed by the governor general for each province with the conditions set out above.

Note 4—The Ministry of the Interior must, every six months, present the results of research and studies and the solutions proposed to the appropriate executive bodies for the necessary action, as well as to the Majles.

Note 5—The executive charter for this law will be prepared by the Ministry of the Interior, with opinions from other members of the committee and will be approved by the cabinet.

Note 6—The national committee is permitted to exchange some of its duties with provincial committees or subcommittees.

According to this report "the plan to extend the legal time limit on early retirement for workers receiving social welfare" was the fourth item on the Majles agenda, whose details were approved in the second session as follows:

Single Article: The implementation of the law on early retirement passed by the Majles on 18 May 1988 will be extended for a further year from the date that this law is passed.

Note—Employers affected by this law are allowed to employ new staff introduced by job centers, for all personnel who retire in accordance with this law.

A report on the second found of discussion by the commission for guidance and Islamic art with regard to "a legal plan to expand the internal and external tourist trade" was the fifth item on the agenda of this session of the Majles. Six items of this bill were passed.

Article 1: The term "internal and external tourism" means any trip undertaken by individuals or groups lasting more than 24 hours not undertaken for business purposes.

Article 2: In order to define the policies of internal and foreign tourism and the creation of cooperation between the necessary organizations. A supreme council of internal and external tourism will be formed. This will be headed by the first deputy of the president and will have as members the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance, Culture and Higher Education, and Roads and Transport.

Note—The charter dealing with the duties of the council will be prepared by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and approved by the Cabinet.

Article 3: Every foreign tourist that leaves the country will be allowed, in accordance with the regulations mentioned in this law, to take with him—in addition to his personal effects—a maximum set by the executive charter of this law in handicrafts, permitted goods, books, and other publications not intended for trade.

Article 4: The customs department has a duty to provide adequate facilities for foreign tourists at ports of entry and departure in accordance with the provisions of this law.

Article 5: The government has a duty to encourage private and public investment in the field of providing facilities for trips inside the country. The difference in the banking rate and the industrial rate will be 8 percent in deprived areas and 5 percent in other regions. This will be provided for in the national annual budget for this purpose.

Article 6: In the annual budget for the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, each year a maximum of 75 percent of the income from tourism will be used for establishing, renovating, expanding, and providing facilities that will be effective in this field of internal and external tourism, which will be placed at the disposal of these centers by the aforementioned ministry.